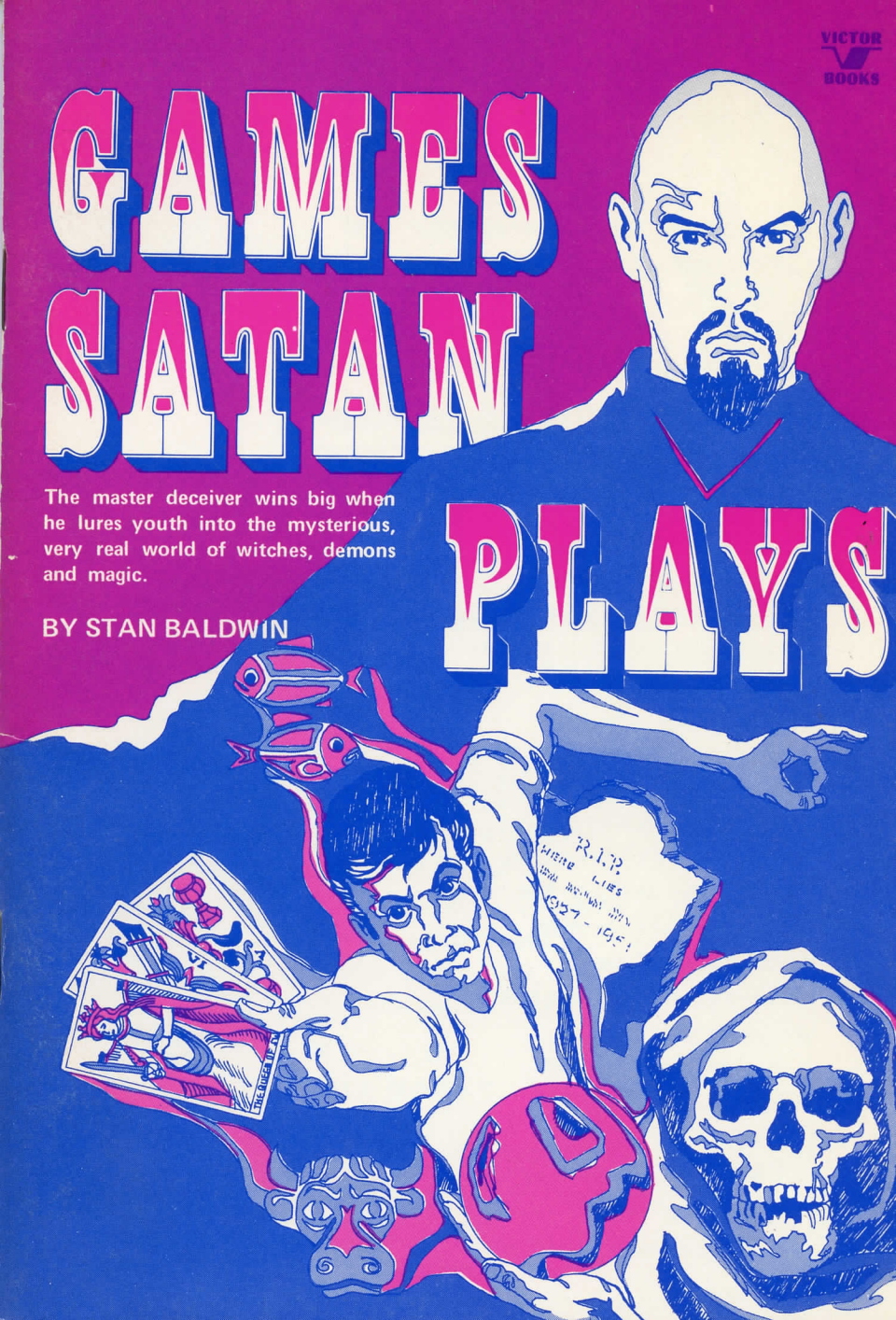
VICTOR BOOKS

GAMES SATAN PLAYS

The master deceiver wins big when he lures youth into the mysterious, very real world of witches, demons and magic.

BY STAN BALDWIN



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A not-so-new god is capturing the interest of young and old alike. His name is Satan, and he is opening the door for many into the strange and fascinating world of the supernatural. Thus Satan has added to his subtle snares—drugs, free sex, hatred—the wide open, wild, and mysterious realm of the occult.

With the Bible as his authority, Stan Baldwin boldly exposes Satan at many of his games involving the world of the occult. Actual examples illustrate how Satan is winning games he plays with young people.

And then there's the oldest game.

Eve lost.

Don't you.

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The Most Deadly Game

Jani Jansen had been the route: alcohol, marijuana, speed, LSD. Then she heard about a new high: Satan worship. She thought it might help her get off drugs.

It did. She began to develop a feeling of closeness to Satan and a real sense of power. As she learned more and more secrets of Satanism, she came at last to the day of her first black mass. It was a mockery of the Roman Catholic mass.

A naked woman served as the altar, and a Satanist priest led chants. Acts of sexual perversion set the stage for the climax of the mass—the live sacrifice of a baby by fire.

This seemed so "right" to Jani and her friends. Hadn't Abraham shown willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac? The Satanists wished to show at least equal devotion to their god.

As if under a spell, Jani felt Satanism had the answers for her. As she understood it, Satan offered her power both in this life and the next, when she would become a demon with ability to possess people (a bit of misinformation, of course).

Happily, Jani (a Californian/Berkeley) chucked the Satan game

when she came face to face with the Prince of Life—Jesus Christ. She has shared her story as a warning to others against being linked with Satan. In a real sense she reaped what she sowed, for she confesses that Satanism inflicted deep wounds and their traces remain. Her physical and emotional scars may never completely disappear.

Satan worship manifests itself in other shocking ways. A girl Satanist in San Diego, Calif., intent on pleasing her god, made plans to ride with the witches on Halloween 1970 and maim a male student at the University of California at San Diego by hacking off a limb with a knife. At first, presumably she would render him unconscious and then proceed with her gruesome act.

Fortunately, Christian students learned of her plan and rallied to prayer. Later, they realized the extent of Christ's victory. One of the leaders of the cult failed to show up for the evening. The girl fell asleep at 7 p.m. on Halloween and never awoke till 11 a.m. the following day!

Throughout history Satanism and its sister, witchcraft, have captured the fancy of the superstitious, weak-minded, and foolhardy. Only those who have slept through lit and history classes are ignorant of the famous Salem witch trials that occurred during the early years of American history.

However, in recent years, especially in Germany, thousands have worshiped Satan openly, with Satan churches doing big business in German cities.

In 1966 Bernadette Hasler, a pretty, 17-year-old Swiss girl accused of committing incubus (sexual intercourse with the devil), failed to survive the "cure" for her devotion to Satan. A defrocked German priest was summoned to help free her from the power of the demon that supposedly controlled her. When mild methods failed, he and five of his followers used more drastic means. The girl died as a result of the brutal treatment.

In England, late in 1970, the Nunhead Cemetery in London hit the headlines as devotees of witchcraft made a bold raid. They broke tombs, smashed gravestones, and hauled off bodies. It was only one of many such incidents in Britain attributed to Satanism. Religious News Service reported that "behind the scenes there are witches' secret meetings, complete with altar, masks, death curses, and ceremonial nude practices."

Today Satanism and other forms of occultism (astrology, fortune-telling, witchcraft, spiritism) loom as the successor to drugs as a destroyer among American and Canadian young people. One telephone call-in center in Southern California had received almost all of

their calls for help from young people who were hung up on drugs, were runaways, or had VD. But in the first three months of 1971, they had 60 calls from young people in trouble with the occult.

Nevertheless, the bizarre activities of Satanists are so far out that many people can't believe that such things are really happening in North America. To seek confirmation from a reliable and official source, the author wrote to Los Angeles police captain R. L. Vernon and received the following reply:

"Unfortunately it appears that Satan worship, including the sacrificing of animals, is on the increase. Information from reliable police informants has described in detail the sacrificing of dogs, cats, and various other animals during weird witch-type rites. One informant recently described an incident wherein the blood of a sacrificed dog was mixed with an LSD preparation and drunk by the participants.

"Last week the bodies of two dogs were recovered in separate incidents which lead me to believe that they were used during some type of sacrificial ceremony. . . ."

Actual Churches of Satan, openly dedicated to worshiping the devil, now are springing up here and there in America. One such church is in San Francisco, and was founded in 1967 by Anton Szandor La Vey, a former circus calliope player.

La Vey makes no bones about what he is doing. He claims there is no difference between white magic (that is used only to do good) and black magic with its hexes, curses, and evil works. People who think there is a difference are only deceiving themselves, according to La Vey. Worse yet, in his opinion, they are not giving the devil his due.

"The black mass (as practiced by La Vey and other satanists) is a relatively new phenomenon . . . developed in the 16th century," according to Brendan Furnish, assistant professor of sociology, Westmont College. "The black mass cashes in on the Catholic mass which must be looked upon as a semimagical ceremony. I know this will go down lumpy with most Catholics, but the mass is said for special events—to bless fishermen, to make people and land fertile—all of which practices are somewhat magical. Satanists pick up the "magic" of the mass and pervert it to their own ends.

"An example of this perversion is that the host (bread) of the black mass is always profaned. It's defecated on, trampled under foot, and is the subject of perversions of the worst kind. Of course, the idea is to profane Jesus Christ. Very often the black mass is consummated in the sexual union of the high priest and his altar piece, a nude woman."

Outright Satan worship is a bold, radical, yet tempting idea promoted by Satan himself. He even approached the Lord Jesus Christ with that proposition. When Jesus resisted more subtle temptations to His human desires and needs, Satan "took Him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed Him the nations of the world and all their glory. 'I'll give it all to You' he said, 'if You will only kneel and worship me' " (Matt. 4:8, 9, *Living Bible*).

Satan does have power. He offers to share this power with those who will worship him. Frustrated, fragmented people, accustomed to taking the devil's route—the so-called "easy way" of sin—find that this can be a very great temptation. Worshiping Satan is only the final tilt in a game they've been playing for a long time.

The Superstition Game or the Devil's Hide-and-Seek

While lecturing in the United States, Dr. Kurt Koch of Germany, perhaps the world's foremost authority on the occult, was confronted by a skeptic professional psychologist. "This business of spirits is all nonsense," the psychologist affirmed. "I can explain everything you have described on the basis of psychology alone."

"Then explain to me," replied Dr. Koch, "how a person can speak in a genuine foreign language (or a dozen of them) that he has never learned or even heard."

Silence.

It was almost universally accepted in the advanced American technological society of only a few years ago that the whole concept of witches, demons, magic, and spirits belonged to the superstitious Dark Ages. Even some Bible scholars self-consciously minimized the many accounts of demon possession in the New Testament. They had about decided that such stories were only quaint, prescientific descriptions of epileptics, lunatics, and emotionally disturbed people.

But Spirit-taught, Bible-believing Christians knew all the while that one of the devil's tactics for our day is to operate incognito. A device to further that end was to make the whole idea of evil spirits seem ridiculous. A great many people, of course, still follow that line.

Is belief in evil spirits mere superstition? If you answer that question "yes," or even "maybe," you must argue with the New Testament, which everywhere takes demonism seriously and at face value.

This is not to say that we should believe in "ghosts." The spirits of departed human beings do not come back to haunt us. At least, the Bible nowhere indicates this is the case. And it specifically forbids any attempt to look into the future by consulting the spirits of the dead. "There must not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone practicing divination or soothsaying, observing omens, applying sorcery, a charmer, a medium, a wizard, or a necromancer" (Deut. 18:10, 11, *Berkeley*). The word *necromancy* literally means divination (*manteia*) by consulting the dead (*nekros*).

"Therefore when men will say to you, 'Consult the necromancers and fortune-tellers,' . . . should not a people consult its God? Should a people consult the dead for the benefit of the living?" (Isa. 8:19, *Berkeley*).

In other words, when we want guidance, we should get it from God and His Word, not from dear departed Grandmother or from Great-Aunt Esmerelda.

Many people have claimed that they have contacted the spirits of departed loved ones. The late Bishop Pike, for example, thought he talked with the spirit of his son. As our later considerations will show, however, there is no basis for concluding that any of these are genuine contacts with the spirits of human beings (ghosts).

Yet the Bible does indicate that there are *nonhuman* spirit beings about us which can bug us. Before you laugh, think about it. Why should this idea seem so ridiculous or be branded superstitious?

It seems odd that reputable scientists can speculate about the existence of nonhuman, intelligent beings on other planets, but some cannot admit the possibility of unseen beings on this one.

Surely most thinkers would agree that somewhere in the universe there could be intelligent life so different from our own as to be beyond the scope of sensory perception. Why, then, couldn't such beings exist here? The Bible teaches that they do.

Someone may ask, "But hasn't most of that stuff been explained, like the psychologist claimed? Doesn't the Bible call 'demon possession' that which we know to be only epilepsy in some cases or insanity in others? In Bible times didn't they 'cast demons' out of people whom we would just send to a shrink now?"

The answer is an emphatic "No!"

In the first place, the Bible itself distinguishes between demonic afflictions and those of physical or psychic origin. "And they brought unto Him (Jesus) all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils (demons), and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and He healed them" (Matthew 4:24). The Bible makes a distinction between ordinary lunacy and demon possession. In Mark 1:32 we find a similar distinction: "They brought unto Him all that were diseased, *and* them that were possessed with devils."

True, sometimes a seemingly natural affliction was said to be demonic. For example, a case of dumbness is attributed to demons in Matthew 9:32, 33. However, this by no means suggests that the Bible sees all dumbness to be demon-related, though this particular case was.

Consider the solid evidence that what the Bible calls demon possession was just that and not something else. For example, the spiritual insight of a demoniac cannot be explained on natural grounds. "And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying 'Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? *I know thee who Thou art,* the Holy One of God," (Mark 1:23, 24).

This incident occurred very early in Jesus' ministry, when the people in general were unaware of His divine nature. It is almost certain that, at this time, even the disciples did not understand who He really was. Yet this stranger knew Him at once as "the Holy One of God."

Such things happened consistently when Jesus encountered demonism (see Mark 1:34). How could a mere sickness, whether physical or mental, enable its victim to display such spiritual insight? Besides recognition of Jesus, there was also universal fear of Him and submission to His authority.

Then, too, the strange things that happened when demons were cast out show that more than psychological factors were involved. The case of the Gadarene demoniac is an eye-opener. Again there was a recognition of Jesus by the evil spirits. "Now, as soon as he saw Jesus in the distance, he ran and kneeled before Him, yelling at the top of his voice, 'What have You got to do with me, Jesus, Son of the most high God? For God's sake, don't torture me!" (Mark 5:6, 7, *Phillips*). Obviously the demons were speaking through the demoniac.

Even more gross, however, is the fact that Jesus permitted the spirits to enter a herd of swine feeding on the hillside "a good way off" (Matt. 8:30). The pigs promptly went wild, dashed down the hill into the sea, and were drowned.

Were Dr. Koch's skeptical phychologist to argue that the man was merely emotionally upset, and that Jesus, a superior practical "psychologist," was able to calm him, he would have a real problem explaining the behavior of those pigs!

Indeed, this may be why Jesus permitted the demons to enter the pigs. Otherwise, unbelievers both then and now could argue that no demons actually possessed the man. In the wonderful way that God works complex matters together, the result also taught those swine herders a lesson who were flouting the law of Israel by keeping pigs there in the first place!

A little thought on this whole scene gives a good deal of insight into the spirit world. Demons apparently do not completely know the future, else why should they have begged so strongly to enter the swine if they knew their stay there would be only momentary? When fortune-tellers seem to accurately foretell the future, they may sometimes only be revealing what the demons themselves *intend* to do. The demons may be thwarted in their plans. God may overrule them. Prayer may defeat them. Or, even plain human will may frustrate them. Consequently, most fortune-tellers are as remarkable for their misses as they are for their correct forecasts.

The pig episode also reveals the basic destructive nature of demons. Even while in the man they made him cut himself. Except for the sovereign restraint of God, they probably would have destroyed the man as they did the pigs. Even though to destroy their host

would leave them homeless, a situation they apparently dreaded, their corrupt nature was simply driving them to it. Remember that God had long beforehand put a strict limitation on Satan to prevent him from killing Job. As Jesus said, "He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44).

No, belief in evil spirits is not mere superstition, though pushing that idea has given Satan a convenient smoke screen behind which to work. It's really remarkable that he's gotten away with it so well.

It's also remarkable that the same people who tell us with one breath that there is no devil tell us with the next that man is basically a fine fellow. It makes you wonder where all the murder and rape and war and exploitation and cruelty and hypocrisy and hate come from. As an old poem puts it:

> The devil was fairly voted out,
> And of course the devil's gone.
> But simple people would like to know:
> Who carries his business on?

Demons, Demons Everywhere

If Satan cannot succeed in convincing people that all belief in spirits is superstitious, he sometimes reverses his strategy. He encourages the credulous to see demons everywhere, to actually *be* superstitious. This approach, of course, will come in handy when he gets ready to push the "it's all superstition" bit again.

Victims of the "demons, demons everywhere" strategy are almost always obsessed with the idea. They suspect anyone who has a mental or emotional problem is demon possessed. Any sickness or accident that happens to them or their families or friends is a demonic attack. If a person is lustful, or addicted, or unstable, he is demonized.

Dr. Koch points out, for example, that involvement with the occult can produce depression, but he hastens to add that depression does not mean that one is demonized. There are about 20 forms of depression, only one of which has occult roots.

In fact, almost every human experience can occur on any one of three levels: the demonic, the human, or the divine. A great many things that happen—some of them very strange—are explainable on a

purely human level. Many healings are the result of suggestion, of course. It has long since been established that many illnesses are psychosomatic (mind-produced).

Not every sermon preached is directly energized by God, and not every sin is hatched in hell. The Bible says, "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of *his own lust* and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14, 15), Just as sin can originate on a human level, so can many other things both good and bad.

For example, ordinary people under extraordinary circumstances perform remarkable physical and mental feats.

Samson performed amazing feats of physical strength because "the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him" (Jud. 14:6). *His* special strength was of *divine* origin.

The Gadarene demoniac, on the other hand, also performed amazing feats of physical strength. "No man could bind him, no, not with chains; because that he had often been bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces" (Mark 5:3, 4). *His* special strength was of *demonic* origin.

An acquaintance of mine was trapped in the cockpit of his light plane after a fiery crash. His seat belt would not release, and he was about to burn to death. He literally tore the 1,200-pound test webbing of the belt apart to escape. *His* special strength was undoubtedly *human* in origin.

In these examples, each man showed similar superstrength, each one bursting bonds, but the *source* of the strength was very different. Accounts of individuals showing amazing strength from merely human sources are common in hypnosis and in emergencies. Stories of individuals lifting automobiles off accident victims are frequent.

Diagnosis of a specific condition, however, is not always easy. In fact, according to 1 Corinthians 12:10, the ability to discern spirits is one of the special gifts given by God to certain individual Christians. Some theologians hold that this gift was strictly for Bible times, that now that the Scriptures are complete all the discernment needed concerning demons comes through the Word. Maybe, maybe not. Whatever the fact, it's not for the untaught, unlearned amateur to carelessly label just any strange manifestation as demonic. Like medicine, it's too specialized a field!

In fact, one of the dangers of a book such as this is that unless it maintains a careful balance in its presentation of the truth certain unstable readers are likely to go off the deep end. As Dave Jackson,

writing in *Campus Life* magazine, says concerning previous times when the occult was prominent, "It seemed that as soon as the Church defined some new form of Satanic activity, its practice was discovered. This is particularly true of the blasphemous black mass. History records no report of them as such until they were officially defined by the authorities. Then, they began springing up everywhere.

"Satan really had his heyday in the Dark Ages. The sexual orgies connected with witchcraft became so debased they are almost incomprehensible. Rites for conjuring up the devil or his demons included all kinds of sadism and even infant sacrifice. The potions and charms included such things as chopped reptiles, feces, the ground bones and blood of children. The most potent hallucinogenic drugs were developed and used regularly. Thousands of people were driven insane by these activities.

"But did Satan ever actually come to these wild parties thrown in his honor? Did he grant special powers to those who signed a pact with him in their own blood?

"Chances are he never showed! You see, he didn't have to. All the debauchery, all the insanity, all the blasphemy, all the mutilation, all the tortures, all the executions could be achieved equally well by confused humans without his overt presence."

That doesn't mean of course that Satan and his demons weren't there. Obviously they engineered the whole thing and were laughing up their sleeves with fiendish glee. Satan's whole object is to "steal and to kill and to destroy" (John 10:10). But so far as any real supernatural manifestation is concerned, it wasn't needed. The supernatural is part of Satan's strategy for a couple of his other cute games; we'll look at them next.

A Game of Weird Effects

Linda locked her bedroom door and turned to cross the room. As she did her glance fell on the little sea horse she had strung from the ceiling as a mobile. Earlier that week she had pierced the sea horse through the center with a long carpet needle. Pleased with the effect, she'd left the needle there. At this moment, however, her thoughts were not on the sea horse.

With mounting excitement, she pulled the shades and switched off the light. Then she lay on her bed in the darkness. Now to prove her spiritist powers!

It had all begun so innocently. One day a friend at school told her she had telepathic powers. "I know, because you often say things another person is about to say."

Fascinated, she had begun to study extrasensory perception, spiritism, and witchcraft. And now she was prepared for her first séance.

Breathing deeply to quell her excitement, she began to concentrate. Her heartbeats became louder and louder until her whole body pulsated. Then the pulsating changed from a physical feeling to what

seemed like her soul throbbing. She felt she was in a box, a coffin, with her soul looking up out of the blackness. A hazy vision passed before her eyes, a house with a long winding staircase. Softly, she began to call the name of a dead aunt, who she had decided would be her contact.

At first nothing happened. Then the floor began to creak as though someone passed back and forth. She dared not open her eyes, but she was sure she had contacted the spirits.

In half an hour it was over. She stood up and turned on the light. Still in a daze, she walked to the dressing table and looked in the mirror. A stabbing flash of light over her shoulder startled her. She whirled. Her sea horse was spinning frenziedly on its thread, the needle through its center sending out darts of light. She went over to it, and the spinning slowed until the sea horse hung motionless.

She spoke to it. "Turn . . . turn to the right." The thread hung still, then began to sway and, gathering momentum, it spun to the right.

It came to rest, and she spoke again. "Turn to the left." Obediently, the sea horse began to sway and then to spin, this time to the left. There was no doubt in her mind. A spirit had taken up residence in her sea horse. At last the power of the spirits was hers!

Linda became deeply involved in spiritism. When she wasn't conducting séances, she was busy with her spiritist writings. She wrote free verse and stories in which she was the all-powerful savior of a tormented world. She became obsessed with death and, later, with blood. These themes filled her writings. Often an unseen force controlled her pen. Then she would write page after page, sometimes in an unknown language.

She and her friends believed that the spirits were revealing through her a new world, a supernatural existence not yet discovered by man.

Within a few months, she began to have hallucinations. The spirits tormented her. She saw shadows and heard voices calling her name. When she answered, they laughed, mocking her.

Her unbalanced behavior disturbed her parents so much that they locked their bedroom door at night. Finally her obsession with blood, death, and knives was too much for them. They committed her to a psychiatric ward.

After eight days she was sent home and soon buried herself in her old practices until she was as unbalanced as ever. Her relationship with her mother deteriorated, and the spirits began forcing evil suggestions into her mind. She knew that if she stayed home, she might

do her mother physical harm, so intense was her hatred and so strong were the spirits' urges.

So Linda ran away into a living nightmare.

At last, she was placed by a court into a foster home. There Christian parents loved Linda and led her to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

She changed, and the welfare people noticed it. They considered her a shining example of what a changed environment could do for a person. Linda knew that hers was the miracle of a changed heart, not a changed environment.

Naturally, she gave up all her connections with spiritism, but the spirits did not easily relinquish their claim on her. Through Bible study and Christian counsel, she learned how to deal effectively with them.

One night as she lay on her bed, the covers were snatched off.

Immediately she recognized the work of the spirits and sat up in bed saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, Satan, I rebuke you." She knew the spirits would not trouble her again that night, and they didn't.

Since then she has had many opportunities to speak to churches and youth groups. She always tells them that a Christian has no business dabbling in spiritism and that even seemingly innocent pastimes such as fortune-telling and ouija boards are instruments of Satan.

Linda remembers very well that it was her seemingly innocent telepathic powers that got her started down the road of spiritism in the first place.

But what *should* we think about mental telepathy, ESP, and other psychic gifts? According to Dr. Kurt Koch, they are almost entirely bad news. (*Almost*, he says, because there may be minor exceptions.)

In the first place, innocent people who are mediumistic (psychically gifted) usually are that way because of a sort of hold over or residual effect of occultism practiced in their families. It's not good; it's bad. It's a literal fulfillment of Exodus 20:5, where idol worship (which is demonic), is said to cause repercussions "unto the third and fourth generation."

In many pagan countries, Koch says, almost everyone is mediumistic because the whole society is steeped in idolatry and demon worship. In the United States perhaps less than 5% are mediumistic.

There may be some psychic ability that is merely human. Dr. Koch tells of one pagan tribe in which the chief could contact every-

one of the hundreds of members by mental telepathy and could send each a personal message just as we would send a telegram, even if the tribesman was many miles away. When the chief was converted to Christ, he lost that ability. However, he was still able to communicate telepathically with his own family. Apparently, that much of his psychic ability was natural, not demonic.

Acts 16 tells of a girl who had great fortune-telling ability, which made her masters a great deal of money. When Paul cast the evil spirit out of the girl, she immediately lost her psychic powers (Acts 16:16-19).

If you should discover you have psychic powers, do not be lured, as Linda was, into developing them contrary to the teaching of God's Word. Especially if there has been a background of occultism in your family, you should renounce the devil and all his works; ask God to remove any psychic powers not given directly by Him, and refuse to give them any place in your life.

Part of this chapter is adapted from *"I Was a Teen-Age Medium,"* by Linda Myring as told to Christine A. Jones. Power Life, Scripture Press Publications, Wheaton, Ill.

The Peek into the Future Game

A fortune-teller looks into your palm and says, "Hmmm, you will soon meet a tall dark-haired stranger who will make a big difference in your life."

A psychic performer or a faith healer picks you out of a crowd, tells you that your father has a serious heart condition but assures you that he will recover. Every word turns out to be true, yet you can think of no possible way that the psychic could even have known you would be in that crowd.

More sinister, you hear of a case where a teen-ager was told that he would die on his 22nd birthday. The months and years pass, and his approaching 22nd birthday finds him to be in perfect health. Yet on his birthday a freak accident strikes him down.

Every year, newspapers publish the predictions of famous prognosticators such as Jeanne Dixon. During the year many of her predictions come true (and many do not). Some of those which come true are rather impressive. Jeanne Dixon correctly foretold, for example, all three major assassinations of the decade of the '60s: John Kennedy's, Robert Kennedy's, and Martin Luther King's.

What gives? How can anyone predict the future so accurately, even occasionally? Does such accuracy prove the person has a gift from God?

Hardly!

In the first place, it isn't normally God's will for us to know the future. "Look here, you people who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to such and such a town, stay there a year, and open up a profitable business.' *How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow?* For the length of your lives is as uncertain as the morning fog . . . now you see it; soon it is gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the Lord wants us to, we shall live and do this or that' " (James 4:13-15, *Living Bible*)

Note that it does *not* say, "What you ought to do is consult a horoscope or a fortune-teller to see if the signs are right." It assumes that you cannot know the future, and it is therefore presumptuous to confidently assert what you will do. "The future belongs to God alone," is the clear inference of this passage.

Furthermore, the *reason* God veils the future from our eyes may also be hinted at here. Even when we don't know the future, we have a tendency to develop a proud spirit of self-sufficient independence from God. We forget that everything—even whether we live—hinges on His providence. If we knew the future, we'd be even more disposed to try to go it on our own.

The very word "occult" means "hidden." The Bible says that, "The secret (the Hebrew word is *sathar,* also translated "hidden") things belong to the Lord our God; but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may practice all the words of this law." (Deut. 29:29, *Berkeley*).

God has some secret things, especially in the realm of the spirit, that man has no business prying into. In Deuteronomy we are told that the things revealed help us practice "the words of this law." How would knowing the future help us do that better?

Still, how do people foretell the future? One way is by simply announcing what evil spirits plan to do. Let's consider the previously mentioned assassinations, for example. Jesus tells us that the devil is a murderer from the beginning. Suppose Satan had already planned —perhaps had already put it into the mind of the assassins months and years ahead of time—to commit these murders? He could reveal that general plan to fortune-tellers. As the dates got nearer, the predictions became more specific as to place and circumstances, perhaps simply because the demonic plan had become more detailed. Jeanne Dixon is claimed to have predicted the exact room where

Robert Kennedy's murder would occur. But that information came too late to save the senator. Why? Could it be that even the demons, not knowing the future, except as to *what* they planned to do, did not themselves know very long in advance when and how they would carry out their plan?

Because demons are not all-powerful and sometimes fail in their intentions, their predictions may not come true. This is especially so when they predict harm or death to a believer in Christ. The Christian believer may claim the power of Christ over the devil and escape unharmed. If you are a Christian and are ever threatened with harm by a fortune-teller you should pray, trust Jesus Christ, and enlist the prayer help of other Christians. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Jesus will be Victor.

Many predictions of the future are, of course, neither satanic nor God-given. They are little more than guesses. Astrology claims to tell what your day will be like, and naturally, if you believe it, you will see things that day that tend to confirm it—whatever it says. It has been observed that those who read their horoscope for a given day will tend to see it proven out in that day's experience. But those who do not read it will discover, if they check back on the horoscope for each day over the previous week, it had very little validity.

Obviously, many times predictions, astrological or otherwise, do not foretell one's life so much as they influence it.

Astrology, of course, is a big subject by itself. The idea that heavenly bodies can affect earth life forms is not incredible. We know that the moon controls the tides. The sun cheers us up, especially after a long rainy period. Certain animals and plants seem to respond to the movements of the universe, even when they are transferred from their natural habitats into a laboratory environment.

But those observations are a million miles from the absurdities of most astrology. The system is not even based on a scientifically accurate concept of the universe.

To state it simply, the zodiac has actually shifted by an entire "house" (that is, by a full twelfth of the sun's apparent orbit) since 150 B.C. Yet almost all astrologers still go happily along making their predictions on outdated positions of the planets. These predictions are really misguided if the planets do have an effect on our lives, because the astrologers have placed everyone under the wrong sign. It would be very simple to adjust everybody to a correct zodiacal position, but the vast majority of astrologers don't bother!

Furthermore, why should the exact time of one's birth be the all-important matter astrologically? Why not consider a person to be

forever marked by the position of the planets at the time of conception?

As Richard Lewinsohn comments in *Science, Prophecy, and Prediction**, "Astrology, far from bothering about real stars, simply operates with signs, words, and symbols which . . . have no real relevance to any known processes."

For a Christian, the Bible gives the final word of authority on such questions. Its word lends little comfort to astrologers. "Let the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you. Take note! They shall all be like stubble, the fire shall consume them. They shall not be able to save themselves from the power of the flame" (Isa. 47:13, 14, *Berkeley*).

The whole idea of guiding one's life by astrology or other peek-into-the-future devices is foreign to the spiritual thrust of the Bible. Scripture everywhere assumes a Christian will walk by faith in daily dependence on the Lord. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and *He shall direct* thy paths" (Prov. 3:6). This is the believer's course. He doesn't need a light to shine down the dark corridors of tomorrow. He goes into the dark, puts his hand in the hand of God, and finds that is better than a light and surer than a known way.

So I go on not knowing,
Nor would I if I might.
I'd rather walk with God in the dark
Than to walk alone in the light.
I'd rather walk with God by faith
Than to walk alone by sight.

"Who among you reveres the Lord? Who listens to the voice of His servant? When he walks in darkness, without a gleam of light, he will trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God" (Isa. 50:10, *Berkeley*).

God has a word for those who aren't satisfied with that arrangement and seek "light" in their own way, too. "Behold all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks; walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of Mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow" (Isa. 50:11).

*Harper and Row, New York, N.Y., 1961.

The Real Nice Guy Game

In his book *I Talked With Spirits**, Victor Ernest describes the séances he once attended. They began with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, the singing of old familiar Gospel hymns, and the invoking of the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

When Ernest became aware of the Scripture's teaching to "believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1), he decided to question a spirit during a séance. The spirit answered that yes, Jesus was the Son of God. The spirit later indicated that one should believe in Jesus as the Saviour of the world.

As Ernest persisted, asking next whether Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for the remission of sin, the medium fell off his chair and lay groaning on the floor—which effectively ended the seance. So far as Ernest was concerned, the spirit had failed the test and was not of God.

One could well wonder, however, at the whole context of "worship" in which the séance was held. It seemed so "Christian"! And

*Tyndale House, Wheaton, Ill.

the spirit said enough good things about Jesus to pass the examination for membership in many evangelical churches!

Dr. Koch says that he has known evil spirits to pass the precise test prescribed by Scripture: "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (1 John 4:2). Explains Dr. Koch, "Satan has learned a few things, too, since that was written. One must test the spirits on the basis of *all* Scripture, not on that one verse."

One must beware of formulas. One must not think that magic can be discerned or counteracted with a basically magical approach. There is no power in certain questions or phrases, but only in the realities which they may or may not represent.

The seven sons of Sceva learned that the hard way. They observed that the Apostle Paul was able to heal sick people and cast demons out of the possessed. In imitation of him, they "took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, 'We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.' "

But their plan backfired. "The evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know and Paul I know; but who are ye?' And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded" (Acts 19:13-16).

Paul had the *power of the risen Christ* working in and through him. The other guys had only a formula–words. It didn't work. The devil is not afraid of words.

Similarly, rebuking evil spirits in the name of Christ, or claiming the protection of the blood of Christ against the attack of evil spirits is meaningful only if one's living trust is in Christ.

Similarly also, the "test" passage given in 1 John is not a magical formula that makes evil spirits confess their nature. It is, instead, as the context indicates, one doctrine by which Satan may be sometimes discerned.

The heresy being promoted by "false prophets" referred to in 1 John 4:1 concerned the true *humanity* of Jesus Christ. Any spirit which denied the true humanity of Jesus, the Messiah, was not of God. Of course, John could also have said that any spirit that denied the true deity of Jesus was not of God.

He was speaking against one particular heresy here, but *any* essential truth of the Gospel may be used to test the divine or satanic origin of a teaching. Any spirit that does not confess that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again is not of God (1 Corinthians

15:1-4). Note, too, that there need not be a denial of these doctrines, only a failure to confess them.

The instruction of 1 John 4 is really for the purpose of exposing false religion, heresies, cults. And it works beautifully, because the exact reason some cults are false is because they preach some other "gospel" than the one cited above. They may not deny these doctrines (though they often do), but they never get around to confessing them. They have a different message.

Some cults make a big emphasis on a proper name of God (Jehovah or Yahweh). Some have a legalistic system emphasizing certain rules. Some exaggerate the importance of certain rites such as baptism or communion, while others get hung up on the "latent spiritual power" in each human being and offer keys to unlock that power. Many cults teach good ethics, common sense, positive thinking, and social reform, and a hundred other good things. But if a system does not confess all the great truths of the Gospel, that system is not of God.

If, under questioning, a person or spirit gives lip-service to a doctrine, he has not necessarily passed the test. What does he regularly and voluntarily confess? What in essence is his message? These are the crucial questions.

By a true test, many very nice people in false cults and non-Christian religions, as well as many nice atheists, agnostics, and ordinary "good-hearted" sinners, are revealed to be under Satan's control.

It should, therefore, be very clear that, just because a person claims to use only "white" or "good" magic, or just because a fortune-teller claims to only use the gift for good (and not make a cent of profit), or just because a medium is sweet and kind—doesn't mean Satan isn't behind their activities. The same goes for preachers of any or no denomination who are mediums or "Christian clairvoyants."

Remember, the result of some of these people's ministries may be very "good." They may bring about actual healings, for example. But the price may very well be one's sanity or even one's eternal soul.

In his book, *Between Christ and Satan,** Dr. Koch cites the case of a woman who was healed of tuberculosis, only later to suffer from mental and psychic disturbances. The woman had in her possession an amulet or charm which the healer had told her she must keep always, that should she give it up, she would die within a few days.

**Kregel Pub., Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Dr. Koch persuaded her to turn it over to him. The woman was shocked to see Dr. Koch open the amulet and produce a piece of paper from it which said, "My soul belongs to the devil."

Another woman was told by doctors that she would have to have her leg amputated. Anxious to save her leg at all costs, she went to a "magic charmer" without the doctor's knowledge. The magician told the patient that if she believed in him she would be healed. He then repeated a magic charm and said The Lord's Prayer three times. The woman's pain ceased instantly, and the amazed doctors soon pronounced her healed. But later the woman suffered various psychic disturbances, and her family became accident prone.

Dr. Koch says that satanic healings are, in fact, *transfers* of the disorder from the physical into the psyche. The healed person comes under occult bondage, and the last state is worse than the first.

Obviously Satan can do a lot better job of deceiving some people if he appears to be good. The Bible warns us very plainly against being fooled on that score. "God never sent those men at all; they are "phonies" who have fooled you into thinking they are Christ's apostles. Yet I am not surprised! Satan can change himself into an angel of light, so it is no wonder his servants can do it too, and seem like godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve" (2 Cor. 11:13-15, *Living Bible*).

Games for Fun, Profit, and Purpose

The world of the occult fascinates most people. Millions, including Christians, laugh their way through TV's "Bewitched" and other spirit-world shows. On Saturday mornings, little kids glue themselves to TV to watch the cartoons, every other one of which seemingly features witches, ghosts, or other supernatural beings.

Really, though, the occult penetrates our entire culture. Kids grow up on Hansel and Gretel baking the witch of the forest in her own oven. There are trolls under bridges. Elves help Santa make toys for all the good little children every Christmas. Every comedian in the business gets into a haunted house sooner or later.

Friday the 13th can't pass without comment. Halloween is a national holiday. Midnight is humorously called the witching hour. "Step on a crack and you'll break your mother's back" is parroted by almost every kid who ever walks a sidewalk home from school. Rabbits' feet are good luck (for everybody but the poor rabbits). Four-leaf clovers are good luck, too, but walking under a ladder is bad. Break a mirror and you're in for seven whole years' bad luck! Kill a spider and it will rain. The list could go on and on.

Then there is the ouija board. Is it a game, or is it the threshold of the devil's domain? Too many people have found it the latter.

The resurgence of interest in the occult is not, by any means, due only to fun-seeking. It's also a big and profitable business.

It has seeped into advertising on every level. Just as Madison Avenue has long used sex to sell all kinds of products not remotely related to sex, so they are now using occultism in the same way.

Signs of the zodiac are appearing everywhere. Horoscopes are carried in 2,000 of the country's papers. Famous occultists such as the late Bishop Pike and Jeanne Dixon make a big splash. Churches of Satan operate openly, and various witches announce themselves to the public, even appearing on TV talk shows. At New York University so many students signed up for a class in witchcraft, magic, and sorcery that it had to be held in one of the largest lecture halls.

Besides offering fun and profit, however, occultism appeals to an even more basic level of man's nature. It's a symptom of the spiritual bankruptcy of humanity. We've lived for decades in an atmosphere of practical atheism. Philosophers have deduced correctly that, if there is no God, there is also no grand design or purpose to man's existence. So they push an existential philosophy that says, in essence, that life is absurd and meaningless.

The unbelieving minds of many men buy that view, but they cannot really live with it. To be a part in a meaningless machine hardly satisfies a person. So, in order to get some meaning in life, some young people have turned to drugs, unbridled sex, and now to the occult. It's a very old story, for we are not the first generation to walk a similar path. Paul traced the pattern nearly 2,000 years ago when he wrote his letter to the Christians at Rome. "Yes, they knew about Him all right, but they wouldn't admit it or worship Him. . . . Claiming themselves to be wise without God, they became utter fools instead" (Rom. 1:21, 22, *Living Bible*).

The passage goes on to describe the idolatry (which is really demon worship according to 1 Corinthians 10:20) and the sexual perversion that followed. This very pattern is being repeated before our eyes in the lives of many people in the United States and Canada today.

Bishop Pike seems to be a classic example of one who first rejects the truth of God and then falls into all kinds of satanic delusions. There seems little doubt that Bishop Pike believed he had really been in contact with his dead son. Reluctantly, he was forced by the sheer weight of the evidence to this conclusion, he said. He wrote a book about it, which he entitled *The Other Side.* Serialized in *Look* maga-

zine, and promoted on national television, the Bishop's book and the Bishop's testimony were real boosts for this form of occultism.

In his book, Pike recounted the numerous evidences he had of continuing life beyond the grave. Though he rejected the biblical teaching on the subject, and though he formerly saw no basis for affirming an afterlife, he now believed in it because of these "contacts."

Pike's son, Jim, had committed suicide at the age of 20—on February 4, 1966, in New York City. For some time before this he had been using LSD and other drugs, sometimes in the presence of his father.

After his son's death, Pike began to notice little physical evidences that his son was trying to contact him. A stopped clock was changed to read 8:19. Postcards were found on the floor in the same relative position as the hands of the clock. A female companion whose hair styling Jim had criticized awoke to find her bangs had been burned off during her sleep. (Later, she also committed suicide!)

Pike decided to consult a medium. In several subsequent séances with different mediums, Pike talked with a voice purporting to be his son's. Because the voice spoke of so many complex details which the medium could not have learned by research, Pike concluded the contact had to be a genuine encounter with his son's spirit.

No doubt multitudes of those who read the Bishop's story were likewise convinced. What other explanation could there be?

One marvels that Bishop Pike, a theologian, and an educated man, should not consider either the Bible's teaching on the subject or the fruits of past research.

One documented case should serve to point up the wide margin for error in the Bishop's thinking. A certain medium, Mrs. Blanche Cooler, supposedly communicated with the spirit of a man killed in battle; his name was Gordon Davies. The spirit, purporting to be Davies and speaking in a voice that sounded like his, described some unusual features of a house, foretold the future, and gave accurate information that was unknown to any of the participants in the séance and therefore was not a result of thought transference from them. This time, however, events proved the communication was not from the departed Davies, because he had not departed. He turned up alive and was shown to have had nothing whatever to do with the séance!

What explanation can there be for such things? The Bible teaches that there is a company of fallen spirits which, to use an especially

appropriate term, bedevil men. One such spirit enabled the girl described in Acts 16 to foretell the future. Obviously, she was not a fraud, for after the spirit left her, she could no longer bring her masters gain by telling fortunes–a result that would not have come about if she were only faking from the start.

It would be no problem at all for a demonic spirit to observe an individual during his lifetime and then impersonate that individual after his death, imitating his voice and telling personal details about his life. After all, in the entertainment field, we have individuals who give very good impersonations of others, especially of their voices.

It seems that man will always worship in some way or another. Those who reject the true God will worship false ones. Men of materialistic mind may worship money, science, power. Many in the older generation have done exactly that. Most of the younger generation have seen the futility of such a life. They are looking for deeper meaning and purpose. Tragically, however, many are looking for it in pursuits as bad or worse than those of their parents. They are looking for purpose in the world of mysticism, astrology, cults, spiritism, and Satan worship.

These comprise Satan's home territory, and here he has a decided edge.

The Oldest Game

She didn't mess around with Ouija boards, tarot cards, or crystal balls. She never attended a spiritist séance. She didn't try to look into the future by consulting fortune-tellers, and she had no use for horoscopes. The last thing in the world she would have considered doing was to worship the devil. Yet she lost the whole "shooting match" to Satan.

The mind-bending game Satan played on this poor girl was downright sneaky! He simply got her to doubt God's love. Her tragic game was played out at the dawn of man's history, and her name was Eve.

Eve knew very well that God had forbidden her to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. "In the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die," He had said. But Satan, speaking through the subtle serpent, said in effect, "You won't die. That's not the *real* reason God won't let you eat. Ha! He knows that if you eat you will become as gods, knowing good and evil."

In other words, he implied, "God doesn't love you. He is denying you something good—not something harmful." Once Satan got Eve to thinking such thoughts, it was downhill all the way. It looked to

her as if Satan was right. The fruit was pleasant to the eyes and it looked downright delicious. Maybe it *did* have some magical powers.

Forgetting about the fruit that God permitted her to eat, she got a fixation on the one thing He prohibited. And she kept thinking about it until she *had* to have it.

This oldest of Satan's games is still going his way in the lives of people all around us. You don't have to observe the human scene too long before you begin to realize that, no matter where God sets limits, Satan will urge going one step beyond.

God commands that children obey their parents. Therefore, in one sense and to a degree, parents' commands are like God's commands. Now, observe the parallel between Eve's disobedience and that of the rebellious young person.

Certain parents may be very permissive. If so, what will the young rebel do? All the parents allow and a bit more. If they are very strict, the same. If the folks draw a line at playing checkers, the kid will sneak around and play Monopoly. If they permit Monopoly, he'll want to play hearts. If hearts are okay, he'll think he should play poker.

If the limits allow TV but forbid movies, he'll beg to see just Walt Disney movies–"what's wrong with them?" If they allow him to go to R-rated movies, he'll sneak out to the X-rated. No matter where parents draw the line, they likely will be put down as over-restrictive killjoys.

It's one technique in Satan's oldest game. Fix the attention of the sucker on the prohibition, so the authority figure, whether God or parents, will look like a meany. Don't let the guy or girl think about all the things that are *permitted* but only about the one thing prohibited.

The "make 'em doubt God's love" technique has a thousand wrinkles. It's not only Satan's oldest game, but it's also his best-working ruse. If the victim is not a Christian, make him think that to become one will really louse up his life. Of course, to think this way, he has to believe, consciously or subconsciously, that God's against him.

If the victim is a Christian, make him think that complete commitment to Christ will be just like exile in Siberia–that God will, with diabolical glee, make life as miserable as He can. Again, of course, this requires that Satan first convince the loser that God doesn't love him.

If anything bad happens, Satan can always rush in and point out how this proves God can't be trusted. Very often, he can get a fellow

or girl to verbalize it. "Might have expected it! Nothing ever goes right for me."

In fact, a great many times, our attitude clearly reveals that Satan has been putting this idea over on us. We betray our doubts with such statements as: "That thing's always kicking around under foot till I want it, and then you think I can find it?"

"I could carry insurance for umpteen years and never have a claim, but if I let it lapse one day–just one day–guess what. You know it, I'd probably break every bone in my body."

"Wouldn't you know it; the one day in the last three months that I forgot my lunch money, and my buddy, Horace, who would ordinarily be here to loan it to me, doesn't show up."

"Blind date? Not me. With my luck, I'd be bound to get a loser."

All of which, if you analyze it, is about the same as saying, "There's a gigantic conspiracy going on in the universe, and I'm the goat." Or to phrase it slightly differently, "God doesn't love me; He's working all things together for bad."

This old lie of Satan is not very logical, of course. If it were really true that God wanted to louse up our lives, He wouldn't need our consent to do it. The fact is that God is not against our having a good time and enjoying life. In fact, He invented everything that makes happiness possible. The Bible says that He gives us all things richly to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17).

God *does* frown when we want to worship the goodies instead of Him, however, and He *is* likely to test us as to which we're going to put first. But He loves us. You don't even need a Bible to have evidence of that. If God wanted life to be colorless, He could have made the world in black and white instead of living color. He could have made everything taste like oatmeal mush–without salt or sugar. He could have made everything smell like rotten eggs.

One really has to be brainwashed to doubt God's love, but that's Satan's oldest game, and he is good at it. One thing's sure; young people who buy the devil's line on this point haven't got a chance. They may play out the game for a while, but it can only end one way–Satan's way. Eve found that out.

But Satan has overplayed his hand. The "make 'em doubt God's love" bit is all bluff. This is one game where you can send Satan down to screaming defeat, because if you call his bluff on this point, he hasn't got a thing to back up his play. For God really does love you and is quite willing to prove it.

God has, in fact, already proved it beyond all doubt. Do you know anybody else who would deliberately choose to die for your

sake? Maybe you do; there are a few such people around. But I believe you'd be pretty well convinced you were loved if somebody would do that for you.

There are plenty of guys and girls who not only have no one who loves them enough to die for them but who have no one who really cares that much whether they live or die. But God has *demonstrated* His love. He doesn't just talk it. That center cross that stood on a hill called Calvary–where Jesus endured the agonies of hell to atone for your sins and bring you into the loving family of God–proves His love beyond all question.

That's the greatest gift God could ever give. If God made you rich, beautiful, popular, healthy, happy, and powerful, would you believe He loved you? You could be all those things and still be miserably lost in your sins and go to hell forever. God *has* offered you His best gift, and the only one that really cost Him anything, in giving His Son for you. Those who receive Him become children of God and receive the gift of eternal life.

And God wants to give you lots more. Once you belong to Him, He wants to develop in you the priceless treasure of a new character like that of Jesus Himself–plus giving you all the other good, enjoyable things of life, to the degree that they don't hinder these *best gifts* of Christ-like love and character.

Look at it this way: would you rather be a rich, healthy, and powerful no-good rat unable even to live with yourself or a wonderful person who has to go through some tight places to come out that way? If you choose the latter you and God have the same object in mind, and all you need to do is go along with His plans for the job. Turn your game plan over to Jesus Christ; He'll crush Satan under your feet.*

*Romans 16:20

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Since the mid-'60s Stan Baldwin has been published in such periodicals as "Christianity Today," "Eternity," "Christian Life," "Power Life," and "Power for Living." Today he serves as executive editor of "FreeWay," published by Scripture Press, and editor of Victor Books. He also serves as pastor of the Village Church of Carol Stream, Ill.

Author Baldwin is a graduate of Prairie Bible Institute and has also studied at Powellhurst College, the University of North Dakota, and Oregon State University. He is married and has five children, three of them teen-agers.

GAMES SATAN PLAYS

Very informative and gives true, live examples of real people. *K. H., Pennsylvania*

Very good, especially since this practice of contacting the dead is increasing. This is something important to know, that you shouldn't fool around with these kind of things because they are of the devil. *L. B., Pennsylvania*

I really think that it is good because this is one of the subjects where I lack knowledge. *C. C., Minnesota*

I particularly like the last chapter, which tells of God's love vs. Satan's tricks. *B. R., Minnesota*

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